

THE PUBLIC FORUM

MODESTY SHOCKED IN PARK—

I went for a walk in Humboldt park and found out the way they cleaned them out. They tried to stop a little innocent spooning on the benches, but they did not do any thing with the dark places. When I was walking around I went through a dark place where there were no paths and the sights I saw would shock the modesty of even some of the cops of the park if they saw them, which they would if they looked.—H. H. C.

POLITICIANS AND RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE.—

A woman G. of L. remarks that "as for the Teachers' Federation it is a well-known fact that the majority of them are Roman Catholics and it is also known by every wide-awake Protestant that the Catholic teachers are ruining the schools. * * It is also known that the one aim of the Roman Catholics is to destroy the public schools."

Here are two important propositions stated as absolute facts. If true, they tend to prove a conspiracy, perhaps a punishable one against a fundamental agency of free government. If true, there must be some evidence of it outside of Guardian circles, accessible to those who want to know the truth. Why not point the way to some reliable sources of information?

It is possible that political machines are themselves creating and manipulating religious prejudice for the purpose of distracting the attention of the people from their real troubles, such as unjust taxation, monopoly oppression, transportation robberies, financial conspiracies and other things that need reform attention.

We have reliable information as to some of these things, but outside of the labor unions few seem to pay much attention to these real evils.

Most of us seem to think there is

nothing very wrong about them except that we are unable to connect ourselves with them so as to get some of the unearned graft. I am sure The Day Book will welcome information as to how the Catholic teachers are ruining the schools and also as to the design of Catholics to destroy the public schools.

These questions may be the most important among the many that are pressing for solution upon the minds of the people. If so we want the proof.—George V. Wells.

SCHOOL BOOKS.—

It is to be hoped that parents, educators and business men will take advantage of the opportunities offered by The Day Book for the free exchange of ideas in the present school curriculum, so that any flaws therein may result in removal.

As a starter, let me submit the following interesting data produced upon investigation of the texts used in the public school commercial courses:

In the spring of 1910 the teachers of bookkeeping in the Chicago high schools were requested to report on the merits of the text book then in use, published by J. A. Lyons & Co.

The result of the canvass was an almost unanimous verdict unfavorable to the text. It was urged against it that not only was the English awkward, but that it contained numerous violations of common rules of grammar, such as almost any pupil would recognize as errors. Pedagogically it was pronounced bad, and the book was filled with serious errors relating to bookkeeping and business practice—wrong principle and matter entirely out of date.

The teachers were then requested to suggest an open list, which they did. The Lyons book was, at the request of a few teachers, included in this list, and it was, until September, 1914, partly or exclusively used in five of the eighteen high schools in which bookkeeping is taught. The